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Convict Soviet as CIA spy

Moscow (AP)—Alexander Nilov, 31, a Soviet engineer, has been convicted by a military court of spying for the Central Intelligence Agency, the Red Army newspaper reported yesterday. A spokesman for the United States Embassy declined comment.

The newspaper said Nilov was arrested by Soviet security police before his alleged spying activities had proceeded very far, and thus was spared the death sentence. The minimum sentence for espionage is seven years' imprisonment.

Nilov was working in Algeria, where, according to the newspaper, he was recruited by U.S. intelligence agents who promised that money would be put in his name in a Swiss bank account. His military trial recalled the 1978 conviction of Anatoly Filatov, who allegedly was recruited by the CIA while serving as a low-level Soviet diplomat in Algeria. He was executed by a firing squad.